REMARKS

Claims 40-89 are pending in this application. Dependent claims 42-44, 47-49, 52-55, 58, 59, 62-68, 71, 72, 74-76, 78, and 80-89 are amended to render the claim dependencies consistent. No new amendments are presented. Applicants address below all grounds of rejection raised in the Office Action to establish that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action rejects 40-89 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,884,032 of Bateman.

Independent claim 40 recites a method of establishing a communications call that includes selecting a B party by using an interactive device connected to a public network. In response to this selection, called address data for the B party is accessed from a *public directory of the public network*. The called address data for the B party and calling address data for an A party are sent to a communications module of the public network. A call is then established between the A and B parties over the public network by employing the connection module and the called and calling address data.

With reference to FIGURE 1 of Bateman, this patent discloses a call center that allows a customer to utilize equipment present on its premises (e.g., a computer and a telephone) to submit a help call request to the center, and to receive, in response, a call back from an agent. For example, the customer can submit an HTML form 52 containing its telephone number to server 46 of the call center, which in turn passes this information (together with a time stamp) to an outbound dialing system 32. The customer's URL and telephone number are entered into a "HOTLIST," which can be accessed by a next available agent for establishing a call with the customer. Thus, the "HOTLIST" includes telephone numbers of interested customers, which are to be called as soon as an agent becomes available, or based on a schedule.

Bateman does not teach or suggest allowing a customer to select an actual party (e.g., a particular agent) with whom they wish to communicate, or to access called address data of such a party from a public directory. At no stage does the Bateman reference describe a system that allows a customer to select an actual party and then establish a call. Rather, in Bateman, a customer simply transmits its own call address data, and awaits a call from an agent of the call center. It is the call center that selects a party, i.e., an agent, to establish a call with the customer.

Conversely, an agent of the call center does not access a public directory to obtain a customer's call data. Rather, the agent accesses information from a "HOTLIST," compiled as customers transmit their telephone numbers to the call center. This "HOTLIST," however, is not a public directory, but is rather compiled and maintained by the call center, itself. In fact, it would be counter-productive to make this information accessible to the public at large because it allows competitors to have access to a list of interested customers and their calling data.

Thus, Bateman fails to teach or suggest material features of claim 40.

The above arguments also apply to establish that other independent claims (i.e., 41, 45, 46, 50, 51, 56, 57, 60, 61, 69, 70, 73, 77, and 79), and claims dependent on them, are patentable over Bateman.

For example, claim 50 recites an interface of an interactive device for originating a communications call, which includes a display controller for causing display of at least one B party, a selector for enabling a B party to be selected on the display, and a link that sends, upon activation, selected party data corresponding to the B party to a public network. The public network accesses called address data of the B party in a *public directory* on the basis of the selected party data, and forwards the called address data to a connection module of the public network to establish a call with the B party.

As discussed in detail above, Bateman does not teach or suggest accessing called address data of a B party in a public directory, and transmitting this information to a connection module of the public network to establish a call with that party.
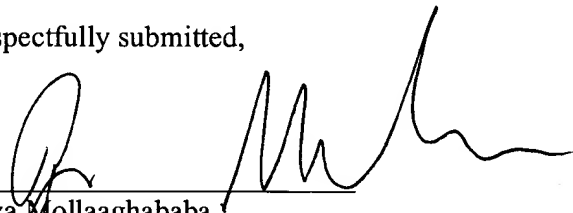
Likewise, independent claim 51 recites an interface of an interactive device that includes, among other elements, a search generator for generating a search for a B party using a *public directory*. Similarly, other independent claims recite a public directory and/or communicating with a public directory – features not taught by Bateman.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 439-2514 if there are any remaining questions.

Dated: April 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By_____
Reza Mollaaghababa
Registration No.: 43,810
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP
World Trade Center West
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604
(617) 439-2000
(617) 310-9000 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

1307320.1

RECEIVED

APR 2 0 2004

Technology Center 2600

13